

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for fast communication with a symbol linked object based system is useful in allowing a user to maintain control over the user's system when 5 receiving an E-mail with a large attachment. The current art requires selecting and downloading an E-mail attachment to determine its size, which can result in a time consuming transfer of unwanted data to the user's system and causes the user to lose control of the system during the lengthy downloading process. The present invention allows separate files to be created and stored with the E-mail attachment while converting 10 information about the size of the attachment into a set of symbols linked to the attachment sent to the E-mail recipient with the E-mail. The recipient can then determine whether to select, download or delete the attachment to which the symbols are linked.